

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6755
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MAPUTO 00261

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: XGDS-2-3
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RESPONSE TO OWEN LETTER AND TALKING POINTS
FOR USE WITH FRONT LINE AND NIGERIA

REF: STATE 053342

1. SMUARY: MACHEL IS CONCERNED UK AND US MAY NO
LONGER BE INTERESTED IN PURSUING THE ANGLO AMERICAN PLAN.
HE FEELS THIS WOULD BE A MISTAKE SINCE FRONT LINE PRESIDENT
OAU AND MOST OF WORLD NOW ACCEPT AAP AS BASIS FOR
JUST SETTLEMENT, WHILE INTERNAL ACCORD PRESERVES MINORITY
POWER AND WILL NOT END FIGHTING. SINCE MALTA TALKS,
MACHEL HAS URGED NKOMO AND MUGABE TO ACCEPT UK AND US
POSITION THAT MATTERS OF DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER MUST
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BE IN HANDS OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER DURING TRANSITION.
MACHEL SAID HE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO WORK IN BEHALF
OF AAP. BUT HE NEEDS UK AND US ASSURANCE THAT WE STILL
SUPPORT THE PLAN. AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I REASSURED HIM
ON THIS SCORE, BUT MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF UK AND US
COMMITMENT TO THE PLAN WILL BE NECESSARY IF WE TO KEEP
MACHEL WORKING IN BEHALF OUR PLAN. NKOMO AND MUGABE

ARE IN MAPUTO TO MEET WITH MACHEL. END SUMMARY.

2. UK AMBASSADOR JOHN LWEEN AND I MET WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL FOR AN HOUR THIS MORNING. PRESIDENTIAL AIDE FERNANDO HONWANA AND NOTETAKER WERE PRESENT.

3. LEWEN BEGAN BY PRESENTING REFTEL TALKING POINTS IN PORTUGUESE, ADHERING CLOSELY TO ENGLISH TEXT. MACHEL LISTENED ATTENTIVELY. ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON SEVERAL POINTS TO MAKE CERTAIN HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY WHAT WE WERE SAYING.

4. WHEN LEWEN FINISHED, MACHEL TURNED TO ME.

-I SAID THAT THE TALKING POINTS HAD BEEN PREPARED JOINTLY BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND REFLECTED VIEWS OF USG:

- I REAFFIRMED THAT UK AND US REMAINED COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLES OF THE AAP.

- I REMINDED MACHEL THAT IN OUR FEBRUARY 10 MEETING WITH HIM, HE HAD URGED US AND UK GOVERNMENTS TO TALK TO MUZOREWA, AND SITHOLE. I NOTED THAT DR. OWEN HAD ALREADY TALKED TO SITHOLE AND WOULD BE SEEING MUZOREWA EARLY NEXT WEEK. AND I REITERATED REFTEL TALKING POINT THAT IN MEETING WITH SITHOLE, DR. OWEN HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT AGREEMENT NOW BEING NEGOTIATED IN SALISBURY WOULD NOT PRODUCE A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER AND THEREFORE
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COULD NOT BE COUNTED ON TO END THE FIGHTING OR TO WIN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. (THIS WAS CLOSE TO WHAT MACHEL HAD WANTED US TO SAY TO MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE).

- I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MACHEL'S SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORT WITH AAP AND SAID WE WOULD WELCOME HIS VIEWS ON HOW. IN LIGHT OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, WE MIGHT PROCEED TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD COMMON GOAL OF INDEPENDENCE AND MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA.

5. MACHEL SAID HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS CLOSELY. AAP WAS OBVIOUSLY AT CRUCIAL POINT. THE PLAN HAD ALREADY HAD A CONSIDERABLE IMPACT INSIDE ZIMBABWE, AS PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE. AS WE WOULD HAVE NOTICED FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNIQUE OF FEBRUARY 23, MOZAMBIQUE SUPPORTED AAP AS BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT. SO TOO DID THE OTHER FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS, THE OAU AND MOST OF THE WORLD. WE SHOULD NOT LIGHTLY GIVE UP ON THE AAP.

6. TURNING TO THE INTERNAL ACCORD, MACHEL SAID THIS WAS NOT ANSWER. SMITH IS NOT READY TO ABANDON POWER. THIS IS CLEAR FROM THE WAY DISCUSSIONS ARE FOCUSING ON MINORITY RIGHTS RATHER THAN ON THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY

MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE ARE BEING USED TO PRESERVE POWER FOR THE WHITES. NO ONE IS LOOKING AT THE ISSUE IN TERMS OF HUMAN RIGHT. THE INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT PROMOTE RACIAL ACCORD, BUT LEAD TO RACIAL WAR. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT.

7. MACHEL SAID HE IS AWARE THAT CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN BRITIAN IS USING RHODESIA AS A POLITICAL ISSUE TO MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE IS AWARE TOO THAT THE UK AND US HAVE PUBLIC OPINION TO DEAL WITH. UNFORTUNATELY, YOU (THE UK AND US) DO NOT ACT AS IF YOU AHVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR OWN PROPOSAL. FAILURE TO DECLARE YOUR CONTUINED SUPPORT FOR YOUR PROPOSAL LEADS AFRICANS TO CONCLUDE THAT YOU MAY NOT REALLY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TO
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PLAN IN THE FIRST PLACE. YOU WILL LOSE MUCH CREDIBILITY IF YOU GIVE UP ON YOUR PROPOSAL NOW.

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EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R S E C T I O N A L I N F O 0 2 V I C E 0 1

8. MACHEL SAID HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR A STATEMENT BY UK AND US THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE STILL PURSUING THE AAP. MACHEL SAID THAT AFTER THE MALTA MEETING HE HAD TALKED TO NKOMO AND MUGABE AND HAD URGED THEM TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE THAT DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER MUST BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER DURING THE TRANSITION. HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO BE HELPFUL, BUT COULD NOT GO MUCH FURTHER WITH NKOMO AND MAGABE UNTIL HE KNEW THAT UK AND US STILL SUPPORTED THE PLAN. LWEEN AND I ASSURED HIM THAT WE DID.

9. MACHEL SAID THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING BOTH NKOMO WHO ARRIVED IN MAPUTO YESTERDAY AND MUGABE LATER. MACHEL ASKED IF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING TALKS WITH THE PF. AMBASSADOR LWEEN AND I SAID THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS WERE INTERESTED
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BUT WE WONDERED, IN LIGHT OF THE PF STATEMENT OF FEBURARY 25, IF THE PF

LEADERS WERE INTERESTED IN SERIOUS TALKS WITH US. MACHEL SAID OUR FAILURE TO CONTACT NKOMO OR MUGABE SINCE MALTA TO ARRANGE DATE FOR SECOND ROUND OF TALKS HAD LED PATRIOTIC FRONT TO CONCLUDE THAT WE WERE NO LONGER INTERESTED. LWEEN AND I POINTED OUT THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD APPROACHED NKOMO AND MUGABE SINCE MALTA. INDICATING THAT WE WERE READY TO RESUME TALKS. BUT NEITHER MUGABE NOR NKOMO HAD INDICATED TO US THAT THEY WERE READY. MACHEL SEEMED SURPRISED TO LEARN THIS.

10. ON MATTER OF FEBURARY 25 PATIORIC FRONT PRESS STATEMENT MACHEL SAID HE HAD TALKED TO MAGABE AND NKOMO AND SUGGESTED THEY PURSUE THEIR DISCUSSION WITH UK AND US ACROSS THE TABLE NOT VIA THE PRESS. LWEEN AND I SAID IT UNFORTUNATE THAT THEY DID NOT DO SO, SINCE STATEMENT CERTAINLY COMPLICATED POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS. NODDING AS IF IN AGREEMENT WITH US MACHEL SAID THAT IF THERE IS TO BE A BREAKDOWN IN TALKS BETWEEN UK AND US AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IT SHOULD COME AT A MEETING NOT AS A RESULT PRESS STATEMENTS.

11. MACHEL CONCLUDED MEETING BY ASKING IF WE COULD ONCE AGAIN REASSURE HIM THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE AAP SO THAT HE COULD REPORT THIS TO HIS CABINET AND TO MUGABE AND NKOMO. WE REPEATED OUR ASSURANCE.

12. COMMENT. CLEARLY MACHEL WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE UK AND US HAD NOT SINCE FEBRUARY 15 PUBLICLY REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE AAP. HE PROBABLY HOPES THAT HIS MEETING WITH

LEWEN AND ME THIS MORNING MAY PROMPT SUCH A STATEMENT
FROM US. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SEEMS TO APPRECIATE THAT IT
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WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO CONDEMN OR
REJECT AN INTERNAL ARRANGEMENT. AT NO TIME DID MACHEL SAY
HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT WE HAD NOT CONDEMNED THESE
ARRANGEMENTS, NOR DID HE URGE US TO TAKE SUCH A STATEMENT.

13. MACHEL HAD NOT CONCLUDED THAT WE HAD GIVEN UP ON THE
AAP. BUT HE WAS BEGINNING TO QUESTION HOW FIRMLY COMMITTED
WE WERE TO IT. AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I TRIED TO REASSURE
HIM ON THIS COUNT, BUT I BELIEVE MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE
MAY BE NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MACHEL'S
SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS IN RHODESIA, WE WILL HAVE TO MOVE
QUICKLY. IF WE FEEL THAT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS
WE CANNOT STATE PUBLICLY OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE
AAP. THEN I RECOMMEND WE CONSIDER RELAYING SUCH ASSURANCE
PRIVATELY TO MACHEL (AND THE OTHER FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS)
IN MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER
CALLAGHAN. SUCH A MESSAGE WOULD BE WELCOME BY MACHEL.

14. I EXPECT TO SEE MACHEL AGAIN TOMORROW WHEN HE MEETS
WITH BILL FOLTZ TO DISCUSS THE MESSAGE HE WISHES TO SEND
TO MUZOREWA. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY INSTRUCTION OR
TALKING POINTS FOR THIS MEETING PLEASE SEND THEM NIAC
IMMEDIATE.
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